

Current Affairs #61 – The Announcement of the Four Horsemen by the Four Living Creatures

Sam Soleyn

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As we get ready to study the four horsemen, let us begin with a reading from the 6th chapter of the Book of Revelation, verses 7 and 8. The Lamb, of course, is opening the seals, and here is what it says,

When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, “Come and see.” So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to him over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth (Revelation 6:7-8 NKJV).

Now, it is very interesting. He said, “I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, ‘Come and see.’” I want to take you back to chapter 4 of the Book of Revelation. Here, he describes the four living creatures, and this is what he says (verse 7 of chapter 4),

The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature was like a calf [an ox]; the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle (Revelation 4:7).

Now, if you go back to chapter 6, where he is talking about the Lamb opening the seals, this is what he says,

...and I heard one of the four living creatures saying, with a loud voice like thunder, “Come and see” (Revelation 6:1).

“I heard **one** of the four living creatures”—that would have been the lion because he is listed as the first living creature. Now you will say, he just said, “I heard **one** of the four living creatures say...” But if you go forward from there, he would say in verse 3 of chapter 6,

- “I heard the **second** living creature saying...” (verse 3);
- and then, “the **third** living creature say...” (verse 5);

- and then (where we are now reading), he would say, “He opened the fourth seal, and I heard the voice of the **fourth** living creature saying...” (verse 7).

So again, the lion is the first one to speak. And indeed, it speaks in a way that allows us to see the first living creature was like a lion. There is a coordination between the ruler, the lion—the ruling feature of the four living creatures—and the spirit within us that rules. He is the one charged with declaring the false Christ: the one who rides forth with a bow, and is bent on conquering and to conquer, and given a crown.¹ So, amongst the people of God (and this is my point), the spirit that is amongst the four living creatures is precisely able to determine what the truth is, relative to all of these four horsemen who come with varying degrees of ferocity against the people, beginning with appearing as a king. The king, the spirit of the king within the Body of Christ, typified by the lion, is the one that announces when the false Christ comes riding on a white horse—as it would appear to be the one that he is not—and having crowns, given authority to conquer, and he was bent on conquering, and carrying a bow. So, the spirit within the four living creatures is the one who announces the thing that is its counterpart, or that is its deceiver in the alternative and opposite perspective.

Why am I telling you these minute details? So that you understand that you are not going to be surprised; so that you know that you will know when the deceiver comes.

It annoys me, it annoys me greatly, to hear people raised all of their lives under evangelical theology and that kind of teaching, going to church all their lives, reduced to mutterings about, “I hope we will not be deceived,” or “I think it will be like that,” or “I pray to God that this will happen or that will happen.” These are the mutterings of a people stripped of any confidence in the living God. The things that were written before, according to Romans, chapter 15, verse 4, “were written for our learning, that we, through the patience and the comfort of the Scriptures, might have hope.” This is not guesswork, my brethren. This is not supposition. This is not about helicopters and, as I said in the previous broadcast, about conjecture and wishful thinking. This is not about blood moons and

All Scripture quotations are from the NKJV Bible, unless otherwise noted.

¹ See Revelation 6:2: “And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.”

other follies that have been debunked. This is not about some guy standing up and blowing, and saying he is standing in the office of the prophet, declaring the end of COVID-19, when, in his state, it is worse now. He prophesied it would be gone by the heat of the summer, and it is worse now in the midst of the summer heat, though he prophesied it back in the spring. God is debunking the trite, the pretentious, the superfluous, the ignorant. He is debunking them. They cannot keep from saying what is in their hearts, and they can only say what is in their hearts, because that is all they have.

But you are not of the darkness.² This is not talking about nighttime. This is talking about ignorance. That is why God said, “Let there be light.”³ God intended to illuminate all things. All things in creation were made by Him and made for Him,⁴ and by extension, we are the heirs.⁵ This is not a time for foolishness. This is not a time for false loyalties. God is wanting us to catch every nuance, and He is speaking by the Spirit so that we are not to be deceived. This is how we will not be deceived—not by guessing, not by speculating as to whether some political figure is the antichrist or nonsense like that, that we have always seen. Prophecy has so often been presented in this form of conjecture and speculation, entirely devoid of the revelation by the Holy Spirit.

But there is manna for the day. Men of understanding will come forth in the end of the age, and they will be given the deconstruction of the mysteries so that they may lead the people of God through the most difficult time of humanity. And yet, for the people of God, the word of the Lord will illuminate their path, and though everything around them is dark, they are neither of the darkness nor of the night, but their path is illuminated as the illumination comes by the revelation of the nuances of God.⁶

² See 1 Thessalonians 5:5: “You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.”

³ See Genesis 1:3: “Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light.”

⁴ See John 1:3: “All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.”

⁵ See Romans 8:16-17: “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together”; see also Galatians 3:29: “And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

⁶ See Psalm 119:105: “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

So,

- the first of the four living creatures was the lion, and so the lion spoke about righteous rule and the appropriateness of ruling;
- the second living creature is the calf (ox): it is the representation of that which is steadfast, that is not subject to being shaken;
- the third living creature has the face of a man;
- and the fourth living creature has the face of an eagle.

Now, you go back and you match these things, and there is much to be seen in all of that.

But as we come to the fourth living creature speaking about Death and Hades, this is the prophetic spirit. It is the flying eagle. So the prophetic spirit speaks concerning, and releases—or, in the speaking of the prophetic, the announcement is—the pale horse, the name of him who sat on it is Death.⁷ Why does the word of God prophetically spoken announce the coming forth of the spirit of Death, and Hell following after? Because the word of God brings life. In Him is life.⁸ It juxtaposes perfectly with death. What are the indications of death? The indications of death, viewed from the standpoint of spiritual things, —because these are spirits, Death and Hell, as indeed are all of the four horsemen. So, in a sense, there are five spirits presented, the fourth horseman presenting Death and Hell. Life is in the word. The word of God is life. It is like marrow in the bones,⁹ the Scriptures say. When there is an absence of the word of God, the bones of the slain of Death and Hell are many, very many, and very dry.¹⁰ So when God is about to bring back life, it will be the flying eagle that will announce—in the place of the coming forth of Death and Hell—it will be the prophetic word of God that is spoken in the midst of that, because that, you see, that restores life to the people of God.

⁷ See Revelation 6:7

⁸ See John 1:4: “In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.” See also John 14:6a “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life.’”

⁹ See Proverbs 3:8 KJV: “It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.” See Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

¹⁰ See Ezekiel 37:1-2: “The hand of the LORD came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones. Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, there were very many in the open valley; and indeed they were very dry.”

You remember—and I have referenced without noting it with particularity, although now I will—from the Book of Ezekiel, the 37th chapter. I think many of you, who have been following me, know that I am plowing into the Book of Ezekiel. And in the 37th chapter, he speaks of the valley of dried bones, a great army that had been decimated and the bones were very many, and they were very dry.¹¹ Now, when it was time for the bones to live—“Son of man, can these bones live?”¹²—the answer was, “Lord, You know.”¹³ And the Lord spoke and said, “Son of man, prophesy to the bones.”¹⁴ The wind of the Spirit came and blew over the bones, and they began to be a great army standing up again upon the earth.¹⁵

So, back to the teaching from Revelation 6. As he is speaking then, and the fourth living creature speaks, he says, “So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hell followed after him.” And then, my point was that the spirit of prophecy, the eagle, the fourth living creature, is the one who announces this.

And power was given to them [to Death and Hell] over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth (Revelation 6:8b, comments added in brackets).

Here, I want to go into “the beasts of the earth.” The word for “beasts” is a particular reference, and in the Greek, the term “beasts” here, is the word *thérion*¹⁶, and it is a particular usage. *Thérion* means

¹¹ See Ezekiel 37:1-2: “The hand of the LORD came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones. Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, there were very many in the open valley; and indeed they were very dry.”

¹² Ezekiel 37:3a: “And He said to me, ‘Son of man, can these bones live?’”

¹³ Ezekiel 37:3b: “So I answered, ‘O Lord GOD, You know.’”

¹⁴ Ezekiel 37:4: “Again He said to me, ‘Prophesy to these bones, and say to them, “O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!”’”

¹⁵ Ezekiel 37:9-10: “Also He said to me, ‘Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, “Thus says the Lord GOD: ‘Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.’” So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army.”

¹⁶ See Strong’s Greek 2342 - <https://biblehub.com/str/greek/2342.htm>

a dangerous animal, and it is sometimes venomous and wild, this beast of the earth. Now, this is different from the normal Greek word used for beast, which is the word *zōon*,¹⁷ which typically has a portion of the word for “life” in it. But, in the word *thérion*, it inevitably or invariably denotes a wild beast, a venomous beast. It is somewhat like the viper that bit Paul’s hand in Acts 28:3-4. The idea of a beast of prey is not always present, but it is used to describe... By the way, it is never used to describe a sacrificial animal. *Thérion*, in the sense of wild beast, is used in the Book of Revelation to denote anti-Christian potentates who are designed to control the affairs of nations with satanic power in the closing period of the present era. Now, that is from Vine’s Commentary.¹⁸ And from Thayer’s Greek Lexicon, *thérion* is an animal, a wild beast, etc., as used in the Book of Revelation 6:8 in reference, under the figurative of a beast that is depicted as antichrist, both in his person and in his power and kingdom. It is also metaphorically used as a brutal man, a bestial man, a savage, a ferocious being, such as in Titus 1, verse 12.¹⁹ It is typically not a reference to the stupidity of beast, but it is commonly used in reference to predatory beasts.

Now all of that to say, that in Revelation, chapter 6, what he is beginning to open up is this: the riders on the fourth horse, Death and Hell, were given power to act for the control of humans over a fourth of the earth, and in that control, he could:

- kill with sword, which is by warfare;
- with hunger, which is economic starvation;
- with death, a reference to disease functions or pestilence;
- and by this thing called “beasts of the earth.”

I want us to go back and look at things, both in the Book of Revelation, and primarily and in a preceding fashion, in the Book of Daniel 7, about the vision of four great beasts, as they relate to the human population. Because, you see, many of these things are not first references where we find them. Such as here, in this obscure little corner of Scripture, “by beasts of the earth,” these things,

¹⁷ See Strong’s Greek 2226 - <https://biblehub.com/greek/2226.htm>

¹⁸ <https://www.study-light.org/dictionaries/ved/b/beast.html>

¹⁹ Titus 1:12 “One of them, a prophet of their own, said, ‘Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.’”

though they are tucked away, have significant antecedent references. If we go to the Book of Daniel, here is a reference that I want for us to begin to look at. It is about “beasts of the earth.” Listen, this is amazing! I want to introduce it in this section, but I want to unpack it in the remaining sections. Daniel is speaking in Daniel 7, and he says,

In the first year of Belshazzar, king of Babylon, [and you will remember, Belshazzar replaced Nebuchadnezzar] Daniel had a dream and visions of his head while on his bed. Then he wrote down the dream, telling the main facts.

Daniel spoke, saying, “I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea. And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other. The first was like a lion, and had eagle’s wings. I watched till its wings were plucked off, and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man’s heart was given to it” (Daniel 7:1-4, comments added in brackets).

Do you notice anything about that? This first of the creatures has all but the cherub, all but the ox, so we know—I am going ahead—we know that it is the four kingdoms that will come upon the earth, and these are predatory. But they appear like the Son of Man, or they appear like the Kingdom of God. The first of these kingdoms, it says, was like a lion and had eagle’s wings. And what was the third? A man. The lion, the eagle, the man, the ox: this is the indication of the four living creatures, who represent us as the corporate man. This kingdom appears—the first of these—appears to have three of the four spiritual characteristics of the four living creatures. Now, what does that tell us right away? Because, this is the first appearing or the first description of what is summed up in the rest of the four living creatures. This is what is summed up. Now, we will see—I want to skip ahead here, and I will go back and forth between these passages, and we will look at certain things—John is speaking in the Book of Revelation, chapter 13; so I have left Daniel 7 and my commentary on the first of the four kingdoms, and I am skipping over to Revelation, where John is speaking, some 700 years later. John says, verse 1 of chapter 13 of the Book of Revelation,

Then I stood on the sand of the sea. [So, he is in the same place.] And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns, ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name (Revelation 13:1, comments added in brackets).

Now you will say, “Yes, but John only saw one beast.” Verse 2:

Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion (Revelation 13:2a).

So this beast that we are about to see—and I have just opened up the first portion, the first appearing—John sees it in the reverse order because those kingdoms had come by the time John was alive; but in the time of Daniel, they were seen prospectively, looking into the future. So he sees the first, and it is a counterfeit. It seems to have the indications of that which is representative of the Kingdom of God, but it is a counterfeit. This will mark out the presiding characteristics over all of these beasts, and you will see it when we come to the fourth beast. For now, we will conclude here, but we will pick back up in the next session.